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Zen of knitting

The meditative power of putting needle to yarn. See page 6

Writers' Circle

Local creative writers flex their literary muscle.
 See pages 2,3 and 4

Rib Fest

Organizers approach council to host
 festival this summer. See page 11



Calvin Smith and Ty Mills see how fast they can toboggan down the hill during the Archie Stouffer Elementary School holiday celebration./KAREN LONDON Staff

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The Writers' Circle

Featuring local creative writers' work

Hope for a truly new year

May old acquaintance be forgot...
Hard realities rise together
... and glom to these very walls
The walls of our hearts
Damage etched in our vessel walls
Never to wash away
Never to be forgotten, never forgiven
Carried wherever we go
Weight sinking us to the bottom of the pond
Down, down, into the mud, the muck, the mire
Hibernating like frogs
Only rising to the surface as the waters warm in Spring
Collective baggage that we share now
We are saved only by the skin of our shiny-shin-shins!
Can we shed these slimy skins?

Lee Gauthier

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15 minutes of happiness

The theme of our mindfulness group was happiness. We used an article about Matthieu Picard, sometimes called the happiest man in the world, based on measured happiness in his brain.

In the discussion several methods to increase happiness were mentioned:

- Smile
- A gratitude journal
- Compassion and forgiveness
- Open your heart
- Watch comedy and funny movies
- Listen to music that makes you feel better
- Meditation

Something you can do, it said in the article, is having only happy thoughts for 15 minutes. We decided to try this at home. I am still trying, having happy thoughts and staying focused on having happy thoughts. One of the group members reported back that she had 15 happy minutes without trying. She would not have noticed, if we had not had this discussion. We tend to focus on the negative with more ease.

Happiness is a choice. Do we react to a stressful situation or not. When you feel depressed, it is hard to believe you actually have a choice.

Once I was staying with a friend, having a good

time. Then a movie triggered something in her and as a result she was as low as it gets. It was hard to see her struggle and it influenced my mood too.

Later that evening we were standing in the kitchen, where I was in the process of making myself a cup of chamomile tea. I took a bag out for her too and placed it on her head. It looked ridiculous, she was holding her head very still, so the tea bag would not fall off and produced a weak smile, while I could not stop laughing every time I looked at her and the silly tea bag.

It lightened the mood a bit and I definitely felt less affected myself.

We picked something light on TV, but the episode just happened to have the same unfortunate theme in it. It occurred to us to look at it as ridiculous and unreal. For my friend laughing, while being exposed to something that pushed her buttons, turned out to be very helpful.

So happiness is a choice, but in a pinch, do remember, there is always chamomile tea as long as it is properly administered.

Anje Bruch-Hilkers is a member of the Algonquin Highlands Writer's Circle, a resonance writers group. For more information <https://ahwriterscircleblog.wordpress.com>.



Mishaabooz's Realm brings light to dark topics

Above, Lauren Margison plays a nun in a scene depicting the destructive force of residential schools in Canada during a dress rehearsal of *Mishaabooz's Realm*, an original opera produced by Highlands Opera Studio in collaboration with L'Atelier Lyrique, L'Opéra de Montréal. The production was staged in Montreal and Haliburton with local performances at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion Dec. 21 and 22. It was composed by Andrew Balfour. Stage director was Valerie Kuinka.

At right, Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer opens the performance of *Mishaabooz's Realm* at a dress rehearsal in Haliburton on Dec. 20. Deer is an aboriginal singer and drummer and was elder advisor on the project.
/JENN WATT Staff



The Writers' Circle

Featuring local creative writers' work

Silver linings

The dark, moisture laden clouds came and went, drenching the already saturated land. For many days after, the skies cleared, the water continued to rise slowly, moving closer and closer to our home. It's impossible to describe the sense of helplessness and dread that invades your spirit when Mother Nature's dark side threatens you or your property. The fact that this was the second time in four years, made the event all the more difficult to deal with.

We live on what was once, long ago, an island. It now has a causeway for automobile access. This time, unlike the flood of four years before, the water didn't quite reach our home, but it did cover the causeway with 19 inches of water. Before automobile access became impossible we parked one of our vehicles on what we began to call the mainland.

Getting on and off the island was challenging. There were two choices: either don hip waders and slog slowly across the causeway on foot or canoe to the other side. This forced us to carefully consider each trip off the island.

That said, we were determined not to miss the 150 Voice Choir, honouring Canada's sesquicentennial. Tickets for this event had been purchased months before, by out of town friends, who asked us to join them. I contacted our friends, Marian and Rick, to let them know they would need hip waders if they were going to stay with us after the concert. They were up for the adventure but Marian was not sure they could acquire hip waders. Much to her surprise, Rick produced two, long-forgotten pairs from their storage room and saved the day.

Meeting at our house before the concert was out of the question. To do so would have required two additional trips across the water-drenched causeway. Instead we made plans to meet Marian and Rick at McKeck's Restaurant in Haliburton.

What a sight we were as Don and I, dressed in patriotic red and our hip waders, set out on the journey to our car. As we slogged along through the thigh deep water, I just kept reminding myself that we were the lucky ones. We were safe and our home was dry, at least for the time being. Many others in our community were not so fortunate. Water had seeped across their doorsills and invaded their homes. It might be months before they would know if their homes were safe to reoccupy. Their lives were once again turned completely upside down.

The concert lifted our spirits as the music took us on a journey commemorating the wonderful country in which we live. It gave us a reprieve from worrying about our home and security.

Then back to reality. We needed to return to our home via the flooded causeway, this time with our friends Marian and Rick and under the cover of darkness.

We parked our cars on the side of the roadway, being careful to stay back from the edge, as the flood waters were still rising.

Under the forest canopy, lining the sides of the road, it was very dark. We doled out the flashlights and used our trunk lights to see what we were doing. We began to don our hip waders but were hampered by the heavy shadows. It was difficult to tell the back from the front. I finally sat on the edge of the trunk, hoping that I would not rip anything that would allow the icy waters to seep into my waders. When I finally got the feet facing the right direction I ended up with the shoulder strap between my legs, making it impossible to pull them up. The laughter bubbled up in me and filled the night, as it joined the laughter of the others and echoed across the water.

Don and Rick led the way back across the water-laden causeway. In the wetland bordering one side of the causeway, crickets and peepers sang out in full voice providing a natural rhythm for our walk. Wispy clouds scudded across the night sky, backlit by the silvery light of the full moon. Once our eyes adjusted to the dark, and we moved out from under the cover of the forest, we almost didn't need a flashlight.

The beauty of the night silenced the group for a time as we soaked it in. It was a moment of peace, a moment of wonder in the course of an otherwise difficult and disturbing time. Mother Nature's gentle side had given us a brief respite from the chaos she herself had created.

The temperature was only one degree Celsius causing our breath to condense into tiny puffs of cloud as we walked along. We could feel the cold of the early spring water through our hip waders. As we waded, the water deepened, rising from our ankles to thighs. Walking became more difficult.

Suddenly, the beam of the flashlight gave us a glimpse of fish swimming across the causeway. "I should have brought a fishing rod," chuckled Rick. The absurdity of fish swimming across the road caused another burst of laughter from the group.

A short distance later, Marian proclaimed somewhat incredulously, "Well, I can certainly say that this is a first for me." Her comment inspired me to reflect on this experience for a moment.

If not for the flood, we would have driven across the causeway, parked in the garage and gone into the house to visit with our friends. We would never have experienced the beauty and wonder of this novel excursion under the light of the full moon.

I stopped, just before entering the house, to once again enjoy the spectacle of the full moon's light falling gently across the wetland behind our home. My eye was drawn upward to the clouds with their wispy, silvery hue. I was struck by the stark contrast with the ominous, dark clouds that brought the flood waters. I thought to myself: every cloud truly does have a silver lining.

Marie Gage

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The Writers' Circle

Featuring local creative writers' work

Designs of winter

We see every shade of white, grey, blue and green in the snow, especially as the sun sets and the colours darken with the sky.

Shapes carry smooth gentle lines and imaginary creatures where the snow-blower has left hills and valleys and where the wind smooths and ruffles the surface of the ice.

Icicles make lace as they slide off the steel roofs. Even snow machines leave designs at the edges and across the lake.

But the best designs for us are tracks of the birds and four legged creatures. They tell us who was with us in the night, where they came from and in what direction they went as they left us.

We bought a book about tracks, which is great for those of us who are new to the out of doors and a good teaching tool for those who have been here a long time.

Sometimes it looks as if we had a turkey convention in our yard and along with tunnels and tracks we learn about the squirrels and voles and mice.

Every morning is an adventure of discovery.

The delight on my partner's face is worth the cold, the shovelling

and all the bundling up to be able to experience all this.

We got snowshoes and made some of our own tracks.

They look strange from the windows among the natural ones of the animals.

I sometimes wish I were a painter and could capture the shapes and colours and the stories of our wild life.

At two in the morning, when I can't sleep I stand in the window and one night I saw three deer hesitating in the trees.

They waited for some time and then in the snow light made their way to the ground where the birds had dropped piles of seeds.

They ate for a short time and then faded back into the forest.

What a gift, one too dark for my camera, but not for my eyes.

Colour, contrast, shape and story give us interest and enjoyment for the winter, when we would rather be warm inside or in the south enjoying the beach.

This winter I'm grateful for all the designs of winter and for the many kinds of wildlife.

Margot Roberts



All I want for Christmas

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School's Brechin Johnson holds up a replica Stanley Cup, as part of a song during the J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School's Holiday Concert on Thursday, Dec. 21 in the school's gym. Parents, guardians and loved ones packed the gym to watch dance and instrumental performances from the school band in the annual student show./DARREN LUM Staff

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What's on your shelf?

JOHN JAMIESON

Special to *County Life*

On an early Saturday morning it is not unusual to have a worried-looking person enter the recreation centre/museum in Highland Grove.

"Hey, is this where you guys put pictures on mugs?" After receiving a nod, "Look, I have to go to an anniversary this afternoon. And I don't have anything to take. Can you do something for me now? I have this picture here. And do you have a nice box to put it in?"

Approximately 10 minutes later a satisfied customer leaves the building.

The Highland Grove Museum, designed originally as a genealogy research group, decided to purchase equipment to put photographic images on coffee mugs. It was hoped that history could remain within hand's reach on a shelf, prepared for coffee time. An unusual project, but Highland Grove is not a normal community. But, is this history?

After producing over 700 designs and approximately 1,300 mugs, it was decided to categorize the types of requests for images. What did people want to see on coffee mugs? Could this be an interesting glimpse of social commentary? Personalizing a mug that a person could see every day tells us about what is important in their life. Perhaps a future University of Haliburton, Fleming Campus, will come searching for our data?

Well, the results are revealing. History does lead the production at approximately 15 per cent of the mugs. This includes old school photos, buildings, wedding, and anniversaries. Second comes babies, grandchildren and grandparents at 12 per cent. But



Using Photoshop editing, it is very easy to take a one foot fish and turn it into a three foot fish.

close behind are appreciation mugs, such as thanking volunteers, cottage associations, birthdays and workplace recognition. Reaching 10 per cent are animals such as dogs, horses, and anglers with their catch. Close behind is advertising, such as credit cards and promoting businesses.

Some of the lesser requests are churches, specific Christmas designs, military, reunions, political commentary, reunions and humour.

A disappointment is the lack of interest in military photos. Our museum staff believe that all veterans should be remembered. A photo and description of service on a mug, although a small item, allows the veteran to be remembered on an ongoing basis. This is nice for children to see that their grandpar-

ents and great grandparents served their country and were actually young and good looking.

Perhaps a surprise is fishermen and their catch. Using Photoshop editing, it is very easy to take a one foot fish and turn it into a three foot fish. Customers are shown sample mugs with enlarged fish. It was thought that the men would love the oversized fish photos. It seemed to be a "male" thing. But, not one single man wanted one. This breaks

all the rules of fish stories. Usually the big fish stories have a broken the line, or a fish too big to get into the net. But when given the opportunity to actually show a "big" catch on a mug, they can't do it. Really? Fishermen would rather tell stories.

If you want to promote history, Highland Grove is ready to serve.

John Jamieson is president of the Highland Grove Heritage Society.



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Editorial

The history and Zen of knitting

ACCORDING TO Wikipedia “Knitting is the process of using two or more needles to loop yarn into a series of interconnected loops in order to create a finished garment, or some other type of fabric. The word is derived from knot, thought to originate from the Dutch verb knutten, which is similar to the Old English cnyttan, to knot. Its origins lie in the basic human need for clothing for protection against the elements. The oldest knit-



GEORGE FARRELL
On Arts

ted artifacts are socks from Egypt, dating from 1001 to 1100 AD.” From the Middle East knitting spread to Europe via various trade routes, and later, by way of colonization, to the Americas and the rest of the world. Before knitting machines were popularized, during the Industrial Revolution, all knitting was done by hand. Since then hand knitting has had an up and down existence. The two world wars saw a rejuvenation due to mothers and girlfriends sending hand-knitted items, especially socks, to their loved ones at the front. The Great Depression also saw a spike in hand knitting, because most people simply could not afford store-bought products.

Knitting saw another peak in the 1960s due to the fashion fascination (especially in England), with the

different yarns and colours that had recently come onto the market. But by the 1980s knitting was viewed as old-fashioned and the sales of yarn and knitting patterns declined, along with knitting classes in many schools.

But hand knitting has always survived, and while knitting is still generally considered a craft, textile designer and knitter Frank “Kaffe” Fassett (born 1937), can be credited, with his bold and colourful designs, with bringing knitting into the world of art. Perhaps due to Fassett’s acceptance and influence (he wrote over 40 books), more men began knitting, and some male celebrities such as Tom Hanks, George Lucas, Ewan McGregor, David Arquette, Laurence Fishburne, and Ryan Gosling are ardent knitters.

Many Canadians of a certain age will remember that Jacques Plante, the famous Montreal Canadiens’ goalie, who popularized the hockey mask, would knit to help him relax before games. The 21st century has seen a big resurgence of knitting. The resurgence coincides with the universality of the internet, a renewed appreciation of handmade items, as well as a revival in do-it-yourself crafts.

So, history has shown that people knit for necessity, to create something artistic, and for relaxation. But for Susanne James, who started the Knit Circle at the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton, almost a year ago, there’s another element to knitting.

“Ask anyone who knits – there’s a meditative pleasure to knitting,” said James. “When you get into the groove of knitting, you can enter a Zen-like state of meditation, which can offer health benefits like lowered heart rate, reduced blood pressure and reduced stress. Experts say knitting can improve concentration, and can even lower the risk of dementia. Relaxed concentration creates a state of consciousness that can result in a deep feeling of enjoyment and peace. Knitting has been called the new yoga.”

James went on to succinctly describe the process of knitting, and what members of the Knit Circle produce during their meetings. “Knitting is actually just a combination of a few different stitches,” she said. “Once you learn how to Cast On, Knit, Purl, and Bind Off, you’re ready to start knitting. You can create scarves, cowls, hats, shawls, tote bags, blankets, sweaters, even slippers.”

James acknowledged the assistance of the internet in the knitting renaissance. “The best thing about learning to knit these days, or advancing the skills you already have, is the existence of helpful online videos which demonstrate every stitch, from the most basic cast-on methods, to complicated daisy and popcorn stitches,” she said. “So, don’t worry, help with your future knitting projects is just a click away.”

“Knitting becomes addictive (in a good way), and you want to do more,” James explained. “If you’re having a bad day, it centres you. If you’re having a good day, grab a cup of coffee or tea, pick up your knitting, and your day will get even better.”

The Knit Circle meets at the Rails End Gallery, 21 York Street, Haliburton, from 1 to 4 p.m., on the first Friday of every month. The next Knit Circle will take place on Jan 5, 2018. New knitters are always welcome. No need to reserve a spot - just bring a knitting project. More information can be found at <http://railsendgallery.com/highlights/knitting-circle/>



The Knit Circle at Rails End Gallery meets the first Friday of every month.

Top 10 New Year’s Resolutions for 2018

ANOTHER NEW YEAR is upon us. Therefore, it is time to consider a few resolutions aimed at promoting happiness and self-improvement. If you’re at a loss for quality resolutions, here’s my top 10 list. Feel free to borrow.

1. Build a time machine. Keep using it to move forward to Friday at quitting time.
2. Ensure you have no credible witnesses throughout the fishing season.
3. Utilize the “alternative reality” concept to spice up your outdoors stories.
4. If you are going commando in February,

remember, operators wear balaclavas.

5. Believe in things you can’t see – like the electrical current that runs through the top strand of that fence.
6. Don’t look for deep symbolism when you read. Sometimes a menu is just a menu.
7. No more long scarf while using the weed eater.
8. Be thankful for the little things – like Trump’s brain.
9. Be decisive... maybe.
10. Try not to be distracted by the little... oh look, a squirrel!



STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

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Skating with Santa
Santa Claus leads a group of Minden Skating Club students during a free skate day because of impending holidays on Monday, Dec. 18 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Students from all of the club's programming were invited for the free skate, which included games and Santa. Mondays are usually scheduled for CanSkate students./DARREN LUM Staff



The Minden Skating Club students were visited by Santa Claus, who led a game of "What time is it Mr. Santa?"



The Minden Skating Club's Alexis Feero, 7, receives a hug from Santa Claus, who came for a visit on Monday, Dec. 18 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.



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by William Shakespeare

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**Performances July 2-5 (7:30 p.m.), 6 & 8
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by A.R. Gurney



The play is set in a fine dining room, the place where the family assembled daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action is a mosaic of interrelated scenes—some touching, some revealing, some hilarious—which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of the rewards and trials of family life. The actors change roles, personalities and ages with virtuoso skill as they portray a wide variety of characters, from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

**Performances July 30 - Aug 2 (7:30 p.m.), 3 & 5
(2 p.m. matinee), Aug 7 & 8 (7:30 p.m.).**



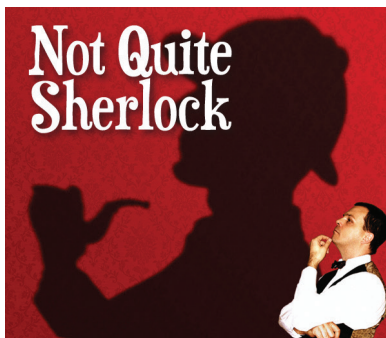
Cliffhanger

by James Yaffe

Mingling suspense and humour, this ingeniously plotted thriller follows all the unexpected twists and turns that result when a seemingly mild-mannered professor of philosophy is driven to apparent murder to protect his reputation and career.

**Performances July 16-19 (7:30 p.m.), 20 & 22 (2 p.m. matinee),
23 & 24 (7:30 p.m.).**

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Not Quite Sherlock

Created by and starring Chris Gibbs

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Performances July 11 & 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (2 p.m. matinee).

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From Weimar to Vaudeville

by Tom Allen

The story of two men, both sons of musical royalty. As America emerges from the Great Depression and Germany descends into darkness and chaos, two musical princes, one rich, one poor, reach out to each other across hardship and time as the world tilts again toward war. Featuring music by Richard Strauss, Charlie Chaplin, Fletcher Henderson, Paul Hindemith, and Johannes Brahms, along with stunning original songs by the cast, Weimar to Vaudeville is Tom Allen's vivid imagining of the 20s and 30s: dirty as ever and roaring loudly enough to be heard half-way around the world.

Performances July 25 & 26 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m. matinee).



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Rib festival to turn up heat in Haliburton's Head Lake Park

CHAD INGRAM

County Life Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Dec. 18 meeting of Dysart et al council.

Head Lake Park is likely to host a rib festival Aug. 24 to 26. Rick Brooks of BWG Events, a not-for-profit events organization based out of Bradford-West Gwillimbury, came to the council table looking for support for what would be Haliburton Ribfest.

Brooks founded the ribfest in Bradford, which eventually grew into the Innisfil Ribfest and Music Festival.

"It outgrew itself," Brooks told councillors. The summer event attracts some 30,000 people.

The vision for Haliburton would be to start small, bringing in three professional rib teams, as well as brewers and entertainment.

Local company Ski Mazing Watersports would also be involved, offering its activities on Head Lake.

Brooks is hoping the event will attract 5,000 to 8,000 people over the course of the weekend.

"We like to work with local breweries," said Brooks, adding he intended to approach the county's microbreweries about getting on board.

There would be concerts by tribute bands, as well as a wrestling show. There would be a \$3 cover charge for entry, to help offset costs for BWG.

"This is a very expensive event to put on," Brooks said, explaining there are operating expenses such as security to be paid for.

BWG also looks after clean-up. "We pride ourself on having a clean event,"

Brooks said.

Councillors were supportive.

"I like your \$3 admission to get in," said Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts. "I think that's really reasonable."

"Sounds like you're good to go," said Mayor Murray Fearrey. Operating as a not-for-profit, BWG donates a portion of gate proceeds to groups in the communities where it hosts events.

For Haliburton Ribfest, Brooks said the intention is for that donation to go to Dysart et al's skateboard park project.

Soap hockey scheduled for July 6-8 in Haliburton

"I've heard the question 100, if not 1,000 times, what is soap hockey?," John Teljeur told councillors.

Teljeur operates the Canadian National Pond Hockey Championships in Haliburton each winter.

This summer, Teljeur plans to bring the World Soap Hockey Championships to Head Lake Park.

Soap hockey is played by barefoot players, sliding around on soaped up, industrial-sized tarps. They play with plastic sticks and a ball, sliding around while wearing helmets.

"It's comical, it's creative and it does capture your attention," Teljeur said. He hopes the popularity of the pond hockey tournament will bring some of those players back to the community in the summer for soap hockey. The tournament would run July 6 to 8.

Deputy Mayor Andrea Roberts wondered about using so much soap so close to Head Lake.

"We recognize that's an issue," Teljeur said, adding he's looking for an

environmentally friendly product to use. There will also be portable showers so players can rinse off, instead of just jumping into the lake.

"This is really positive, in my opinion," Mayor Murray Fearrey said of the event.

Bell

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED BELL MOBILITY RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY WOODEN POLE TOWER

Bell is committed to providing Canadian communities high speed wireless voice and data service. To improve service, Bell is proposing to construct a 27 metre wooden pole remote sector tower with ancillary radio equipment including a shelter approximately 1m x 1.4m at the base of the tower. As part of the public consultation process as required by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (formerly Industry Canada), Bell's regulator under the *Radiocommunication Act*, Bell is inviting the public to comment on the proposed tower location before **February 8, 2018**, in compliance with the Municipality of Dysart et al's Policy No. 38 for the review of telecommunication tower proposals. This tower is fully compliant with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's guidelines, as found under the Client Procedures Circular (CPC-2-0-03).

TOWER LOCATION: Approximately 100m east of the Kennisis Lake Road and Watts Road intersection.

COORDINATES: Lat: 45.241375°, Long: -78.592150°

LEGAL: RDAL BTN LT 20 AND LT 21 HAVELOCK BTN LITTLE KENNISIS DR PL436 & RDAL BTN CON 2 AND CON 3 HAVELOCK S/T INTEREST IN H23090; DYSART ET AL

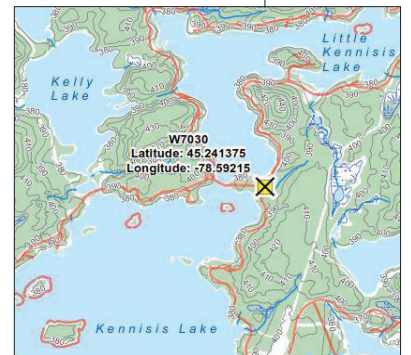
ANY PERSON MAY comment by close of business day on **February 8, 2018** with respect to this matter.

BELL CONTACT:

Mike Benson
CanACRE Ltd.
Agent for Bell

PO Box 82546
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Proposed Location of
Wooden Pole Tower



UPCOMING Community Events



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Upcoming Events

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Contact Susan Keith at 705-457-3981 or email: ch.concepts@sympatico.ca.

Haliburton: Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, January 10, 10:30 am to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 2205.

Stone Soup

When: Wednesday, Jan. 10 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: Lochlin Community Centre
Tickets \$16 for supper and an evening of entertainment including Storytellers: Jim Blake and Fay Wilkinson, and live music by Chadmire + Taylor. A cash bar will feature Haliburton Highlands Brewing craft beers, and wine; we have lots of door prizes lined up.

Two years ago, a similar evening called "Slow Travels, Local Flavours" sold out to standing room only. So, take a moment now: Call, text 705 457-4767 to reserve your tickets. You can go to www.facebook.com/friendsofthetrailtrailhaliburton for more information.

Therapeutic Touch® Level 2 Workshop

When: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, 8:30-5:30 p.m.
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Haliburton Legion presents Jeff Moulton in the Clubroom

When: Saturday, January 20, 2018
Where: Haliburton Legion, Clubroom, 4 to 7 p.m.
Cost: \$5.00 cover charge for non-members
50/50 draw at 6 p.m. Enjoy delicious meal for \$6.00 by the Ladies Auxillary
For Information Contact: Linda at 705-457-2064

Legion Events

Branch 624, Wilberforce

Friday No dinner this week
Saturday Meat draw 2 p.m. - Early bird 3 p.m. sharp
Sunday New Years Eve dance 9 p.m. - close
Monday New Years Day President's Levee 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday Fun Darts 7:30 p.m.
We are in dire need of volunteers for many different things we have going on. If anyone is interested in helping our beautiful legion please call the legion 705-448- 2221 and sign up today

Travelling this winter? Get your travel insurance through your membership.

Jan. 27 Crib tournament in Trenton 29/\$50 - 28/\$25 - 24/\$10

Branch 129, Haliburton

Dave Allen, PRO 705-457-2571

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m.

Tuesdays: Tuesday Night Dart League starting at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start
Bingo Doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. - \$500 Jackpot, \$1000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxillary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays: Cribbage 1 p.m. start,
Meat Draw Five Draws, Five Prizes each draw, First draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$2 per draw.

Chester Howse, MC
Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards

Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw, Tickets are \$1 each from noon onwards

Sundays: Breakfast Second and fourth Sunday of the month—9:30a.m.—1p.m.\$6perperson.Occasional volunteers are needed.

Upcoming Event: Live entertainment featuring Jeff Moulton Saturday, Jan. 20, 4-7pm in the Club Room. Enjoy a delicious meal for only \$6 prepared by the Ladies Auxillary. \$5 cover charge for non members.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at (705) 457- 2571, email rc129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129, everyone is welcome!



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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

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"The voice of the Highlands"

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Board will reduce its teaching staff by total of five

Declining enrolment throughout the county school system, coupled with a board decision to reduce the number of grades at the Dorset school, will mean five fewer teaching jobs in Haliburton County next year.

At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education supported recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the Dorset school reduced by four grades, a move that will mean the loss of two teaching jobs. The committee also recommended a reduction of one teacher at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School, one at Archie Stouffer public

school in Minden, and one at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for a total reduction of five teaching positions.

The move does not mean that five teachers will be fired, however. Voluntary retirements and resignations will make up some, if not all of the five positions that will be lost.

The cutbacks in teaching positions are part of an ongoing trend that is expected to continue over the next few years, until the number of students entering and leaving the school system reaches an approximate equilibrium. Declining enrolment is also likely to force further changes in the present school system as the board reduces the number of grades in outlying schools, or closes them completely.

For the moment, however, the change at Dorset is the only one the board will implement for the 1981-82 school year.

The special projects committee, in its report to the board, recommended no changes at Wilberforce or Victoria Street schools. Gooderham school will continue to operate in its present Kindergarten to Grade 4 arrangement, at least until the end of the next school year, by which time the special projects committee will recommend whether the school should be closed or remain unchanged.

Cardiff school will also operate unchanged next year. Staffing in all county schools is considered by the committee on an annual basis.

Cummins gets council seat left by Elliott

In a long, drawn-out process, Larry Cummins has finally made it to council.

This week, Cummins was appointed to Anson, Hindon and Minden council to fill a vacancy created when councillor-elect Dean Elliott was forced to resign because of a possible conflict of interest with his justice of the peace duties.

Cummins, a local businessman, first put his name before the public in the November 10 municipal elections. On election night when the votes were counted, he tied with Ed Pergolas for the last seat on council.

Two weeks later, when the recount was scheduled, Cummins lost the council seat by four votes. However, about the same time, Elliott was forced to resign and a vacancy was created at the council table. Although council was not legally bound to appoint the next closest candidate, it decided at its inaugural meeting, last Tuesday, to appoint Cummins to the position.

"It certainly was a long process, well I'm kind of glad the way things turned out," Cummins said in a telephone interview Monday.

Cummins said he felt council had made the right move by selecting the next closest candidate at the polls since it was so close to election time.

"It shows they're thinking of the people, not themselves," Cummins said.

In the next two years, Cummins said he would do his best to help run the municipality for the people and work for the betterment of the community.

Although Cummins said he did not have any specific projects he would like to see get underway immediately, he will be spending his first months on council learning

Cont'd, page 3

Fearrey is new county warden, says 1981 will prove 'difficult'

Good forest management programs should be strived for in 1981 according to Murray Fearrey, new warden for Haliburton County.

At county council's inaugural meeting Monday night, Fearrey told the members of council that they should work towards establishing forest management programs, making the planning strategy a worthwhile document, and creating good working relationships with the county's unionized workers.

Another important issue to face the council will be dealing with problems facing the local OPP detachment. At a recent meeting of Dysart et al council, where Fearrey is reeve, the detachment sergeant spoke of staffing and distance problems faced by the local force. The sergeant

was attending that meeting as local businessmen were concerned with the policing of the village.

During his speech Fearrey said the OPP's concerns should be investigated so the "whole county can have what

it deserves".

In the year ahead, the county will be facing difficult economic times as high interest rates, declining lumber industry and construction affect the county, Fearrey told his councillors.

"1981 will prove to be a difficult year," he said. He noted the county is facing another winter of high unemployment as well as having a "famous" low annual income.

Cont'd, page 3

New councillors assigned duties

Minden sets committee positions

Council representatives were appointed to many area committees at the inaugural meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council last Tuesday.

As part of the official ceremony, members of council were named to represent council on certain committees.

Newly-elected councillor Ed Pergolas was appointed to the Minden and District Horticultural Society. Also newly-elected reeve, Lloyd Walker, was named the Industrial development contact for 1981 and to the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP). Serving with Walker on the OHRP committee will be

deputy-reeve Doug Pritchard, councillor Lyle McKnight and municipal law enforcement officer, Dick Schell.

Walker and McKnight will also be acting as liaison with the Red Cross Society for the next year. Enforcement officer Schell

Cont'd, page 3

Future will depend on enrolment

Dorset school not closed at least for 1981-82 term

Dorset parents have won a partial victory in their fight to keep the public school in that community open. At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education approved recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the school reduced from a full nine grades to a Kindergarten to Grade 4 facility.

The decision means two of the school's four classrooms will be closed, and that two of its four teachers will no longer be needed. The teachers will be absorbed into the county public school system, but the net result will be two fewer teaching jobs.

The decision may not have entirely pleased Dorset parents, but it did stave off the closing of the school for at least another year. Its long term future will now depend on the community's growth, or lack of it.

In recommending the change, the committee, in a report to the board, noted that the compromise would allow younger children to be educated in the community while at the same time providing students in Grade 5 and beyond a chance for a broader educational experience.

Those students will be educated in Muskoka, with the majority of them expected to go to Irwin Memorial School in Dwight, 11 miles from Dorset.

The committee also noted that keeping the school open would enable the board and the community to assess the growth or decline of the student population on a yearly basis to determine if the school should continue to function.

Dorset parents and local politicians have been opposed to the possible closure of the school on the grounds that it would hurt the community's attractiveness to potential newcomers. More recently, they have expressed a feeling that the community could grow in the immediate future because of the provincial government's commitment to increase research into the acid rain phenomenon.

In recommending a reduction in the number of grades at the school, instead of complete closure, the committee acknowledged area parents' and politicians' fears that if the school were closed, it would never be reopened.

Besides providing increased educational opportunities for senior students, the change to a 'K to 4' school will save the board money, the committee report notes. It says caretaking, heating and electrical costs will be cut when two of the school's four

classrooms are taken out of service, and that expenditures for teachers salaries will be reduced by more than \$0 percent. In addition, the committee said, the board may be able to rent out the two unused classrooms to further offset operating costs.

The net saving is expected to be greater than busing costs and fees to the Muskoka Board brought about by the transfer of students to Irwin Memorial school.

Before the board voted on the committee's recommendations, members of the Dorset parents group reminded trustees that the original decision to examine the future of the school had been prompted by a projected drop in enrolment that has not yet come about, and that the parents feel will not materialize, especially if the acid rain laboratory is expanded.

Parents also expressed concern about Irwin Memorial school's ability to handle an influx of more than 20 senior students from Dorset.

A third concern centred on the problem of French. Muskoka schools begin French instruction in Kindergarten, whereas the Haliburton County Board provide French in Grade 5 and beyond.

Feeling that Dorset students would be at a distinct disadvantage when they moved on to Irwin Memorial, the parents asked board members if French could be taught from Kindergarten onward at the Dorset school, using one of the two remaining teachers.

Director of Education J. Douglas Hodgson indicated that the request could not be considered, however, because the education act re-

quires boards to provide equal educational opportunity to all its students. The board can begin French instruction in any grade it chooses under the regulations, he said, but it must offer it in all schools at that grade. Thus an exception could not be made at the Dorset school, even if the board wanted to do so.

Trustee Earl Cooper felt

Cont'd, page 3

Echo will not publish in Christmas week

Because Christmas falls in mid week this year and in order that our staff members may enjoy the holidays, the Haliburton County Echo will publish early Christmas week. The Echo will be published on Monday, December 22, 1980. The deadline for display and classified advertising as well as for editorial submissions for that issue will be 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20.

There will be no Echo published the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our office will be closed from December 23 through January 1 inclusive.

We thank you for your cooperation on these altered deadlines, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Students at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School were warming up for Christmas holidays last week. Mrs. Carters grade seven class proudly displays their season's greetings.

Employment situation 'bleak' but new program could help

by Sue Cooper

Although there may be a few more people looking for work this year, the unemployment rate is about average for this time of year, according to the manpower Outreach office in Haliburton village.

Even though the winter months are generally a slow time in the Highlands, Manager Jayne Heppleston said the number of unemployed might be slightly higher this season.

"Things are looking a little bleak at the moment, but you know, the next day they could turn around and we could have orders for five casuals," Heppleston said in a telephone interview Monday.

Although all unemployment insurance applications are filtered through the local office, there is no way of determining the number of people on claims in the county," Heppleston said.

"It's about average for this time of year - maybe a little bit lighter this year because there hasn't been as much construction," she said.

However, there is a possibility that 28 more jobs will be made available in the county this winter as the federal government's Canadian Community Development Program gets underway, Heppleston said.

This program will help out through the winter months and replaces the former Canada Works program, which was not available last year.

Although the program will

not effect the largest unemployment area the county has, it will provide work for women, youth, native Canadians and the handicapped, Heppleston said.

"It's mainly for women, youth and physically handicapped, so it's not even going to reach a target that we're hefty in," Heppleston added.

The project will, however, add a welcome relief during

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Santa to make special visit to Haliburton this Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town and not just on Christmas Eve. This year, at the special request of the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Haliburton Legion Branch 129, Santa has agreed to take a couple of hours off from his preparations and visit with boys and girls in Haliburton village.

Santa will arrive at the Legion hall at 12 noon and will greet the children to be sure

he's made note of their wishes for his visit Wednesday night before Christmas. And he's also said he'll be handing out presents to all the youngsters who turn up to meet him at the Legion.

At 1 p.m., there'll be more entertainment for the children, as well as a movie to top off the afternoon's activities.

Don't miss Santa's special visit to Haliburton.



Sir Sams had best opening weekend ever

White Christmas all but certain

If this week's weather is an indication of things to come, all those who dream of a white Christmas should get their wish. A total of up to 40 cm. of snow (16 inches) has fallen on the Highlands since last Monday, and more is expected later in the week. Snowdepths now range up to 55 cm. in northern sections of the county.

Highest temperature recorded over the Monday to Monday period was 1°C. Tuesday, December 9. The lowest was a bone chilling -30°C Thursday, December 11, and it was equalled Monday, December 15.

All lakes in the county are now frozen. Smaller lakes which froze several weeks ago now have up to five inches of ice. Larger lakes generally have thinner ice and lake travel is still considered hazardous.

The snow has been a boon to skiers and conditions for both cross country and downhill are now excellent.

Snowmobile trails are not yet open.

A gradual warming trend is expected for later in the week, with more snow likely by Friday.



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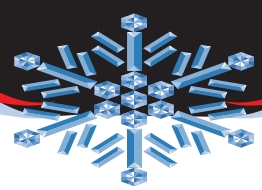
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North Shore Road 2.8 Acres....\$49,000
Miskwabi Lake Access.98 Acres..\$59,000


Happy New Year!
To all of our Clients & Colleagues,
Friends & Family,
We wish you the very best for
health & prosperity in 2018!

Linda, Karen, Marion & Dana
The Haliburton Real Estate Team



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